

NER

NEITHER. *pronoun.* Not either; nor one nor other.

He neither loves,
Nor either cares for him. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleo.*
Which of them shall I take?
Both, one, or neither? neither can be enjoy'd
If both remain alive. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*
Suffice it that he's dead; all wrongs die with him:
Thus I absolve myself, and excuse him,
Who sav'd my life and honour, but praise neither. *Dryd.*
Experience makes us sensible of both, though our narrow
understandings can comprehend neither. *Locke.*
They lived with the friendship and equality of brethren,
neither lord, neither slave to his brother; but independent of
each other. *Locke.*

NEOPHYTE. *n. f.* [*neophyte*, Fr. *ne* and *φύω*.] One regenerated; a convert.

NEOTERIC. *adj.* [*neotericus*, Latin.] Modern; novel; late.

NEP. *n. f.* [*nepeta*, Lat.] An herb.

NEPENTHE. *n. f.* [*νεπέθη* and *πένθη*.] A drug that drives away all pains.

There where no passion, pride, or shame transport,
Lull'd with the sweet *neperthe* of a court;
There where no fathers, brothers, friends disgrace,
Once break their rest nor stir them from their place. *Pope.*

NEPHEW. *n. f.* [*nepos*, Latin; *neveu*, French.]

1. The son of a brother or sister.
Immortal offspring of my brother Jove;
My brightest *nephew* and whom best I love. *Dryden.*
I ask, whether in the inheriting of this paternal power,
the grandson by a daughter, hath a right before a *nephew* by
a brother? *Locke.*

2. The grandson. Out of use.
With what intent they were first published, those words
of the *nephew* of Jesus do plainly enough signify, after that
my grand-father Jesus had given himself to the reading of
the law and the prophets, and other books of our fathers,
and had gotten therein sufficient judgment, he propos'd al-
to to write something pertaining to learning and wisdom.
Hooker, b. v. f. 21.

Her fire at length is kind,
Prepares his empire for his daughter's case,
And for his hatching *nephews* smooths the seas. *Dryden.*

3. Descendant, however distant. Out of use.
All the sons of these five brethren reign'd
By due success, and all their *nephews* late,
Even thrice eleven descents the crown retain'd. *Fairy Q.*

NEPHRETICK. *adj.* [*νεφρέτικος*; *nephretique*, Fr.]

1. Belonging to the organs of urine.
2. Troubled with the stone.
The diet of *nephretic* persons ought to be such as is op-
posite to the alkaliescent nature of the salts in their blood.
Arbuthnot on Aliments.

3. Good against the stone.
The *nephretic* stone is commonly of an uniform dusky green;
but some samples I have seen of it that are variegated with
white, black, and sometimes yellow. *Woodw. Met. Foss.*

NEPOTISM. *n. f.* [*nepotisme*, French; *nepos*, Latin.] Fond-
ness for nephews.

To this humour of *nepotism* Rome owes its present splendor;
for it would have been impossible to have furnished out so
many glorious palaces with such a profusion of pictures and
statues, had not the riches of the people fallen into different
families. *Addison on Italy.*

NERVE. *n. f.* [*nervus*, Latin; *nerf*, Fr.] The organs of sen-
sation passing from the brain to all parts of the body.

The *nerves* do ordinarily accompany the arteries through
all the body; they have also blood-vessels, as the other parts
of the body. Wherever any *nerve* sends out a branch, or
receives one from another, or where two *nerves* join toge-
ther, there is generally a ganglion or plexus. *Quincy.*

What man dare, I dare:
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear;
Take any shape but that, and my firm *nervus*
Shall never tremble. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

It is used by the poets for finew or tendon.

Strong Thyrified discharged a speeding blow
Full on his neck, and cut the *nervus* in two. *Pope's Odyssey.*

NEVELESS. *adj.* [*from nerve*.] Without strength.

There sunk Thalia, *nerveless*, faint and dead,
Had not her sister Satire held her head. *Dunbar, b. iv.*

NE'V'OUS. *adj.* [*nerveus*, Latin.] Well strung; strong; vi-
gorous.

What *nervous* arms he boasts, how firm his tread,
His limbs how turn'd. *Pope's Odyssey, b. viii.*

2. Relating to the nerves; having the seat in the nerves.

3. [In medical cant.] Having weak or diseased nerves.

Poor, weak, *nervous* creatures. *Cheney.*

NE'RVY. *adj.* [*from nerve*.] Strong; vigorous. Not in use.

NET

Death, that dark spirit, in his *net* arm doth lie,
Which being advanc'd, declines, and then men die. *Sta.*
NESCIENCE. *n. f.* [*from nescio*, Latin.] Ignorance; the state
of not knowing.

Many of the most accomplished wits of all ages, have
resolved their knowledge into Socrates his sum total, and
after all their pains in quest of science, have fat down in a
professed *nescience*. *Glavin, Sect. c. ii.*

NESH. *adj.* [*nepe*, Saxon.] Soft; tender; easily hurt. *Stin.*

NESS.

1. A termination added to an adjective to change it into a sub-
stantive, denoting *state or quality*; as, *poisonous*, *poisonousness*;
turbid, *turbidness*; *lowly*, *lowliness*; from *nepe*, Saxon.

2. The termination of many names of places where there is
a headland or promontory; from *nepe*, Saxon; a *nose of*
land, or headland; as *INVERNESS*.

NEST. *n. f.* [*nepe*, Saxon.]

1. The bed formed by the bird for incubation and feeding her
young.

If a bird's *nest* chance to be before thee in the way, thou
shalt not take the dam with the young. *Deut. xxi. 6.*

2. Any place where animals are produced.

Redi found that all kinds of putrefaction did only afford a
nest and aliment for the eggs and young of those insects he
admitted. *Bentley.*

3. An abode; place of residence; a receptacle. Generally in a
bad sense: as, a nest of rogues and thieves.

Come from that *nest*

Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep. *Shakspeare.*

4. A warm close habitation, generally in contempt.

Some of our ministers having livings offered unto them,
will neither, for zeal of religion, nor winning souls to God,
be drawn forth from their warm *nests*. *Sponfer.*

5. Boxes or drawers; little pockets or conveniences.

To NEST. *v. n.* [*from nest*.] To build nests.

The cedar stretched his branches as far as the moun-
tains of the moon, and the king of birds *nest*ed within his
leaves. *Howard's Vocal Fowl.*

NESTEGG. *n. f.* [*nest* and *egg*.] An egg left in the nest to
keep the hen from forsaking it.

Books and money laid for thew,
Like *nesteggs*, to make clients lay. *Hudibras.*

To NESTLE. *v. n.* [*from nest*.] To settle; to harbour; to
lie close and snug, as a bird in her nest.

Their purpose was, to fortify in some strong place of the
wild country, and there *nestle* till greater succours came.

A cock got into a stable was *nestling* in the straw among the
horles. *Bacon's War with Spain.*

The king's fisher wants commonly by the water-side, and
nestles in hollow banks. *L'Estrange.*

Flutt'ring there they *nestle* near the throne,
And lodge in habitations not their own. *Dryden.*

The floor is strowed with several plants, amongst which
the snails *nestle* all the winter. *Addison on Italy.*

Mark where the fly directors creep,
Nor to the shore approach too nigh;
The monsters *nestle* in the deep,
To seize you in your passing by. *Swift's Miscell.*

To NESTLE. *v. a.*

1. To house, as in a nest.

Poor heart!

That labour't yet to *nestle* thee,
Thou think'st by hov'ring here to get a part, *Dante.*

In a forbidden or forbidding tree.

Cupid found a downy bed,
And *nestl'd* in his little head. *Prior.*

2. To cherish, as a bird her young.

This Ithacus, so highly is endear'd
To this Minerva, that her hand is ever in his deeds;
She, like his mother, *nestles* him. *Chapman's Iliad.*

NESTLING. *n. f.* [*from nestle*.] A bird just taken out of the
nest.

NET. *n. f.* [*nati*, Gothick; *net*, Saxon.] A texture woven
with large interstices or meshes, used commonly as a snare
for animals.

Poor bird! should'st never fear the *net*, nor time,
The pitfall nor the gin. *Shakspeare's Macbeth.*

He made *nets* of chequer-work for the chapters, upon the
top of the pillars. *1 Kings vii. 17.*

Impatience intangles us like the fluttering of a bird in a
net, but cannot at all ease our trouble. *Taylor's Holy Living.*

The vegetative tribes,
Wrapt in a filmy *net*, and clad with leaves. *Thomson.*

NETHER. *adj.* [*neoter*, Saxon; *neoter*, Dutch.] It has the
form of a comparative, but is never used in excess, but
only in implied comparison; for we see the *netter* part, but
never say this part is *netter* than that, nor is any positive in
use, though it seems comprised in the word *beneath*. *Netter*
is not now much in use. *No*

1. Lower; not upper.

NEU

No man shall take the *netter* or the upper millstone to
pledge; for he taketh a man's life to pledge. *Deut. xxiv. 6.*
In his picture are two principal errors, the one in the com-
plexion and hair, the other in the mouth, which commonly
they draw with a full and *netter* great lip. *Peasam.*

This odious offspring,
Thine own begotten, breaking violent way
Tore through my entrails; that with fear and pain
Distorted, all my *netter* shape thus grew

Transform'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*

The upper part thereof was whey, *Hudibras, p. i.*

The *netter*, orange mix'd with grey.

A beauteous maid above, but magic arts,
With barking dogs deform'd her *netter* parts. *Reformam.*

As if great Atlas from his height
Should sink beneath his heav'nly weight,
And with a mighty flaw, the flaming wall
Should gape in immensity, and ruining down o'erwhelm this
netter ball. *Dryden.*

Two poles turn round the globe;
The first sublime in heaven, the last is whirl'd
Below the regions of the *netter* world. *Dryden.*

2. Being in a lower place.

This shews you are above,
You justices, that these our *netter* crimes,
So speedily can venge. *Shakspeare's King Lear.*

Numbers were those bad angels, teen
How ring on wing under the cope of hell,
Twixt uppers, *netters*, and surcunning fires. *Milton.*

3. Infernal; belonging to the regions below.

No less desire
To found this *netter* empire, which might rise,
In emulation, opposite to heav'n. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

The gods with hate beheld the *netter* sky, *Dryden's Æn.*

The ghoul's repine.

NE'ITHERMOST. *n. f.* [*super* of *netter*.] Lowest.

Great is thy mercy toward me, and thou hast delivered
my soul from the *nettermost* hell. *Psalms lxxviii. 13.*

Undaunted to meet there whatever pow'r,
Or spirit, of the *nettermost* abyss
Might in that noise reside. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*

All that can be said of a liar lodged in the very *nettermost*
hell, is this, that if the vengeance of God could prepare
any place worse than hell for sinners, hell itself would be
too good for him. *South's Sermons.*

Hieracius tells us, that the eclipse of the sun was after
the manner of a boat, when the concave, as to our sight,
appears uppermost, and the convex *nettermost*. *Keilaga. Bur.*

NE'TING. *n. f.* A reticulated piece of work.

NE'ITLE. *n. f.* [*netel*, Saxon.] A flinging herb well known.

It hath an apetalous flower, consisting of many stamina
included in an enuplement; but these are barren; for the
embryos are produced either on different plants, or on dif-
ferent parts of the same plant, without any visible flower,
which becomes a bivalve seed-vessel, sometimes gathered in-
to round heads, and at other times small and hairy, inclosing
several seeds. *Miller.*

The strawberry grows underneath the *nettle*,
And wholom berries thrive and ripen best,
Neighbour'd by fruit of baser quality. *Shakspeare's Hen. V.*

Some so like to thorns and *nettles* live,
That none for them can, when they perish, grieve. *Waller.*

To NETTLE. *v. a.* [*from net*.] To sting; to irritate;
to provoke.

The princes were so *nettled* at the scandal of this affront,
that every man took it to himself. *L'Estrange.*

Although at every part of the Apostles discourse some of
them might be uneasily *nettled*, yet a moderate silence and
attention was still observed. *Bentley.*

NE'TWORK. *n. f.* [*net* and *work*.] Any thing reticulated or
decussated, at equal distances, with interstices between the in-
terstices.

Nor any skill'd in workmanship emboss'd;
Nor any skill'd in loops of fing'ring fine;
Might in their dexter cunning ever dare,
With this so curious *network* to compare. *Sponfer.*

A large cavity in the fuciput was filled with ribbons, lace,
and embroidery, wrought together in a curious piece of *net-
work*. *Addison's Spectator.*

NE'VER. *adv.* [*ne ever*, *nepepe*, Saxon; *ne æper*, *not ever*.]

1. At no time.

2. It is used in a form of speech handed down by the best
writers, but lately accused, I think, with justice, of solec-
ism; as, *he is mistaken though never so wise*. It is now main-
tained, that propriety requires it to be expressed thus, *he is*
mistaken though ever so wise; that is, *he is mistaken how wise*
soever he be. The common mode can only be defended by
supplying a very harsh and unprecedented ellipsis; *he is mis-*
taken though so wise, as *never was any*: such however is the
common use of the word among the best authors.

By its own force destroy'd, fruition ceas'd,
And always weary'd, I was *never* pleas'd. *Prior.*

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NEU

Never any thing was so unbred as that odious man.
Congreve's Two of the World's.

Be it *never* so true which we teach the world to believe,
yet if once their affections begin to be alienated, a small
thing persuadeth them to change their opinions. *Hooker.*

Ask me *never* so much dowry and gift, and I will give
according as ye shall say. *Gen. xxxiv. 12.*

In a living creature, though *never* so great, the sense and
the affects of any one part of the body, instantly make a
transfusion throughout the whole body. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

They destroyed all, were it *never* so pleasant, within a
mile of the town. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*

He that shuts his eyes against a small light, would not be
brought to see that which he had no mind to see, let it be
placed in *never* so clear a light, and *never* so near him.

That prince whom you espouse, although *never* so vigor-
ously, is the principal in war, you but a second. *Swyft.*

3. In no degree.

Whoever has a faithful friend to guide him, may carry
his eyes in another man's head, and yet see *never* the worse.

4. It seems in some phrases to have the sense of an adjective.

Not any.

He answered him to *never* a word, inasmuch that the go-
vernour marvelled. *Matt. xxvii. 14.*

5. It is much used in composition; as, *never-ending*, having
no end; of which some examples are subjoined.

Nature affureth us by *never-failing* experience, and reason
by infallible demonstration, that our times upon the earth
have neither certainty nor durability. *Raleigh.*

Ye myrtles brown, with ivy *never* fear,
I come to pluck your berries harsh and crude. *Milton.*